Historic Preservation

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STURBRIDGE VILLAGE

Last August the New England floods hit hard at Old Sturbridge Village, causing damage estimated at $175,000 and loss of income during the peak of the visiting season of about $75,000. The damage fortunately centered in the non-museum area of the Village, affecting chiefly the entrance, parking, service and sales areas.

Immediately after the flood water receded, the damage was assessed and within 9 days the Village reopened to visitors. While repair and salvage work continued, plans to make known the Village's plight and invite help were made. To thousands of former visitors; to readers of the Magazine ANTIQUES, whose editor contributed its mailing lists; to members of the New York State Historical Association, whose president and director issued an appeal on its behalf; went more than 75,000 letters. Assembling, stuffing, sealing, stamping and mailing were performed in a series of huge stuffing bees by village staff, Girl Scouts, public schoolteachers, residents of the community and other friends who all volunteered for the enormous task.

To date approximately $110,000 has been contributed from all sources and more than 2,500 friends have wanted to aid in recovery from the August disaster. The first visitor to the Village this season will find no evidence that only a year ago some 12 feet of muddy water swirled through large areas of this peaceful New England scene.

Frank O. Spinney, Director of the Village, reported that repair plans were complicated by the fact that as a result of widespread damage to communities and industries in the entire watershed area, flood control projects developed years ago, but put aside, were revived. If put into effect, a large section of the Village area is destined for use as a dry basin for impounding water in time of flood threat. Such use requires clearing the area of all buildings and relocating them on higher ground, and abandoning the whole section and facilities formerly located at the entrance of the Village. This can be done without the impairment of the Museum itself.

The heartwarming response to the Sturbridge appeal goes far to reconcile us to the anticipated and needless damage resulting from the floods. There still remains over large sections of the country, and over some of its most beautiful areas, a pressing danger to life, scenic attractions and historic properties. Paper plans for flood control are the only weapons being evoked against mighty natural forces.

—H. D. B.

BOARD CHAIRMAN HONORED

David E. Finley, chairman of the Board of Trustees of the National Trust, was given a U. S. Department of Interior Conservation award on Jan. 18, 1956, for his "extensive contributions to the preservation of historic sites, buildings, and objects." In presenting the award, Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay, cited among Mr. Finley's achievements his leadership in founding the National Trust, and also stated, "As Chairman of the National Commission of Fine Arts, you have done much to beautify the Nation's capital. And as Director of the National Gallery of Art you have been instrumental in acquiring and preserving one of the world's largest and finest collections of masterpieces of paintings and sculpture. You have also been a valued member of the Jamestown-Williamsburg-Yorktown Celebration Commission."

Mr. Finley, Director of the National Gallery of Art since 1938, retires from that post in July, 1956. At the request of the Trustees he extended the date of his retirement in order to superintend the Fifteenth Anniversary celebration of the opening of the Gallery on March 17.

ARCHIVES SHORT COURSE

Lester J. Cappon, Director of the Institute of Early American History and Culture and Archival Consultant of Colonial Williamsburg, has been named to direct the Third Institute on Historical and Archival Management. The six weeks summer course begins June 25 and is under the joint sponsorship of Radcliffe College and the Department of History of Harvard University.

Special facilities are offered for college graduates to learn about historical activities in fields other than academic teaching, and to observe actual operations in representative institutions. Special emphasis is being given to historical restorations and their significance in American life.

On the faculty for the course will be leading authorities from such institutions as the National Archives, the Massachusetts Historical Society, the National Records Management Council of New England, and Harvard University. Trust members on the faculty include: Edward Alexander of Colonial Williamsburg; Christopher Crittenden of the North Carolina State Department of Archives and History; Abbot L. Cummings and Bertram K. Little of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities; Ernest L. Dodge of the Peabody Museum of Salem; Waldo G. Leland of the American Council of Learned Societies; and Frederick L. Rath, Jr. of the National Trust.

Scene at Sturbridge Village, Mass., Aug. 1956. *Old Sturbridge Village*

HISTORIC HOUSE KEEPING

"Historic House Keeping," a short course designed for those actively engaged in administering the nation's historic house museums, will be held the week of September 23 at Cooperstown, N. Y., under the joint auspices of the New York State Historical Association and the National Trust. Last year the course was attended by 62 persons from 14 states, Puerto Rico and Canada.

A faculty of 22 specialists will present lectures, many of them illustrated, and will hold special consultation periods for those having individual problems.

Among subjects for course discussion are: selection and acquisition of historic properties; historic, architectural and archaeological research; interior restoration and furnishing; interpretation of historic projects; guide service; early American music and musical programs for historic house museums; administrative problems; publicity; promotion and fund-raising; identification and care of furniture; preservation and display of metal, leather, silver, military arms and accoutrements; care and display of textiles and costumes; and the role of the historic house museum in education and the community.

Frederick L. Rath, Jr., director of the National Trust, and Dr. Louis C. Jones, director of the New York State Historical Association, will be in charge of the programs and will conduct several of the panel sessions.

Specialists lecturing at the courses include: David E. Finley, chairman of Board of Trustees of the National Trust; Henry Allen Moe, secretary of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation; Freeman Tilden, author and conservationist; J. F. W. Rathbone, secretary of the English National Trust; Carl Feiss, A.I.A., architect and city planner, authority on slum clearance and redevelopment; Bertram K. Little, director of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities; Frank Spinney of Old Sturbridge Village; Mrs. Margaret Brown Klapthor of the Smithsonian Institution; Charles van Ravenswaay, director of the Missouri Historical Society; Mrs. Pamela Copeland, regent of *Gunston Hall*; Mrs. Nina Fletcher Little, consultant of the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Museum in Williamsburg; Harold L. Peterson, chief of the historical branch of the National Park Service; Mrs. Joye Jordan of the Department of Archives and History of the State of North Carolina; Frederick D. Nichols, A. I. A., professor of art and architecture of the University of Virginia; Mrs. Helen Duprey Bullock, historian of the National Trust; Minor Wine Thomas of the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village; G. A. Palmer, associate director of Region 5 of the National Park Service; and staff members of the Farmers' Museum, Cooperstown.

Notices of the course and full details will be mailed to all members of both organizations. Preference in registration will be given to organization members.

View from West Point of the Hudson River near Garrison from a painting by Robert Weir, now owned by Col. Taylor Belcher. At this point on the Hudson, *Boscobel*, the historic Staats Morris Dyckman mansion which was salvaged from its original site near Peekskill after being declared surplus by the Veterans' Administration, is to be re-erected. It will be used as an historic house museum especially dedicated to the Hudson River School. The Restoration is planned by Boscobel Restoration, Inc., a Trust member.

—*Benjamin Frazier*

ACTIVE PRESERVATION

Alfred, N. Y. Although "The Gothic", a landmark of Alfred University campus for 100 years, was razed to provide a site for a new library building, its west wing, used as a chapel since 1900, has been saved. Through efforts of friends and alumni it has been removed to the property of Miss Hazel Humphreys on Sayles St., and will resume its role in the life of the community and university.

Abingdon, Va. The pre-Revolutionary town in southwest Virginia, site of the state's officially sponsored Barter Theatre has organized an Historic Abingdon Association with the cooperation of the National Trust. Its members met with town and planning officials to consider zoning regulations for the protection of its historic buildings.

Perryville, Md. Historic Rodgers Tavern, recently reported "In Danger" will be preserved through the cooperation of the Friends of Rodgers Tavern, who enlisted the aid of 14 nearby patriotic and civic organizations, and the Pennsylvania Railroad (which owned the structure) to save the Revolutionary Tavern on the Old Post Road between north and south. One check for $500 was presented to the organization from the recruits and ship's company of Camp Rodgers, the first regiment at the nearby U. S. Naval Training Center at Bainbridge. Capt. Hamilton Howe presented the check on behalf of the seamen to John Rodgers Meigs Green, great great-grandson of Rear Admiral John Rodgers for whom the unit is named, and whose grandfather, Col. John Rodgers opened the tavern in 1780.

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MISSION 66

On February 2, Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay announced that the National Park Service, with the approval of President Eisenhower, has embarked on a new and comprehensive program for the improvement, protection and development of the National Park System. The program is outlined in a report, entitled MISSION 66, which has just been released. Revised budget estimates have been sent to Congress by the President to provide funds to get the program underway this summer. The new budget for the Service calls for $66,238,000 as compared with $45,800,000 appropriated for the current fiscal year. As this statement is written, the House Appropriations Committee has approved the new budget and has increased it by another $1,500,000.

The MISSION 66 report which underlies these important developments reveals that the National Park System, which last year was almost overwhelmed by 50,000,000 visitors, is properly equipped and staffed to handle only half that many. It outlines specific recommendations for facilities and personnel required, not only to meet current needs, but to handle an expected 80,000,000 visitors by 1966.

National historical and architectural monuments and parks, like Jamestown Island, Independence Hall, Yorktown, and Gettysburg, will share in the benefits of the new program in the same way as great wilderness parks like Grand Canyon and Yellowstone. For example, the new budget provides long needed visitor centers and museums for such famous Colonial settlement sites as Fort Frederica in Georgia and Fort Caroline in Florida, as well as for the battlefield of New Orleans in Louisiana, and others will follow. Funds for the stabilization and restoration of historic buildings are also being increased and many other needs met. Since 123 nationally important historical properties situated throughout the United States are protected and exhibited in the National Park System, this improvement program should help vitalize historical conservation in states and communities all over the country.

It will take ten years to complete the programs begun this year, and to bring the priceless areas of the National Park System into modern condition for today's needs. The year 1966 will mark the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the National Park Service, and it thus provides the key to the intriguing name of MISSION 66.

As complementary agencies, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the National Park Service, are equally dedicated by law to carrying out the national policy defined by Congress "to preserve for public use historic sites, buildings and objects of national significance for the inspiration and benefit of the people of the United States." MISSION 66 will be welcomed by all National Trust members as a great stride ahead in the conservation and use of our national historical heritage.

RONALD F. LEE, *Secretary*
National Trust

LEGISLATION

Philadelphia, Pa. A seven-man commission has been named by the Mayor to carry out terms of legislation enacted in 1955 to regulate the destruction of Philadelphia's historic buildings. Under the chairmanship of Grant M. Simon, A.I.A., the commission will review applications for demolition of designated buildings. Other members of the commission are Harry A. Batten of an advertising agency; Charles E. Peterson, A.I.A., for the National Park Service; R. Norris Williams, 2nd, of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania; Councilman Victor E. Moore, who sponsored the ordinance; Finance Director Richard J. McConnell; and Public Property Commissioner Samuel B. Ragulbuto.

Providence, R. I. Two bills were introduced into the last session of the General Assembly to create private preservation societies for the state and for the city of Providence. Set up under the measures would be the Heritage Foundation of Rhode Island and the Providence Preservation Society. The National Trust has supplied materials to both groups, whose incorporators include Trust members from Rhode Island, among them John Nicholas Brown and John Hutchins Cady, A.I.A.

Hartford, Conn. Governor Abraham Ribicoff appointed a 12-man commission to coordinate preservation and marking of historic sites throughout the state.

Harrisburg, Pa. The commonwealth of Pennsylvania has passed a law to encourage private owners of historically significant sites and buildings to maintain their properties fittingly. They will also appropriate funds for suitable historical markers.

DESTRUCTION

Orange, N. J. The house that Lucy Stone, pioneer woman suffragette let go for taxes in 1858 on the grounds that women suffered taxation without representation, is about to be razed for a church parking lot. In the early 1900's pilgrimages of suffragettes visited the building which they called "The Boston Ba of American Womanhood."

Norfolk, Va. Admiral Farragut's old flagship, the U.S.S. *Hartford,* is scheduled for scrapping, after a year's effort in Mobile, Ala., to raise funds to have the century-old man-of-war sent to that city to sit as a museum in Mobile Bay. Commenting on the inglorious end of the heroic ship, the Hartford *Times* observed, "There isn't much of the *Hartford* left. In her present state of decay, the old warship, which once took all Dixie had, wouldn't need a torpedo, just a firecracker, to go down."

Smithtown, W. Va. Two century-old landmarks will be demolished to provide a right of way for highway improvements in Marion County. One is the old stage coach inn on the route between Uniontown and Clarksburg, the other an old country store.

Womeldorf, Pa. The 164-year-old Zion Union Church which was abandoned in 1918 is to be torn down because of the high cost of repairs. The land will probably be used to extend the surrounding cemetery.

Fryeburg, Me. The house built by Judge Judah Dana in 1816, long one of the town's handsomest, is to be razed. Daniel Webster read law in Judge Dana's office while he was in Fryeburg.

Shakertown, Ky. Fire completely destroyed the historic building which at one time housed the printing office of the Shaker settlement in Mercer County.

Utica, N. Y. To provide space for future expansion of the First Church of Christ Scientist, one of Utica's distinguished early houses (1816) is to be razed. The Greek revival structure was once occupied by General Malcolm whose wife was a sister of Mrs. Alexander Hamilton.

Sharon, Pa. The 13 houses built by John Ashton, in 1856, including his own large brick dwelling, are to be razed. The 14-acre site will be converted into a city playground, parking lot, and site for a possible federal building. Ashton was a master ironmaker who operated a rolling mill on the east bank of the Shenango river.

Fredericksburg, Va. One of the city's earliest small town houses, cited by Wallace Nutting as "a pleasing example of a small country manor built in a town" has been razed to provide a site for a new funeral home. Local tradition says the property was once owned by President James Monroe.

Prudential Buildings, Newark from an early photograph.
—*J. Addison Robb*

Newark, N. J. The Home of the Prudential Insurance Company of America in Newark, N. J., is to be razed to make room for improvements. The original structures, built in 1891 and 1910 by George B. Post, A.I.A., have been recorded and photographed, and copies of the original architectural drawings have been deposited in the library of the national headquarters of the American Institute of Architects, through the generosity of the Insurance Company. In its day, the Romanesque home office was regarded "as the highest type of business architecture." In the near future it will pass into architectural history because of the cooperation of the Company with the Historic American Buildings Survey of the National Park Service, the Library of Congress, the American Institute of Architects and the National Trust.

Dover, Me. The old Foxcroft Academy Building on Monument Square has been razed. The Academy was granted a charter on Jan. 31, 1823, under which it still operates, and was the first chartered institution of learning to be incorporated after Maine became a state.

Danbury, N. C. The second oldest house in Stokes County will be torn down to make way for commercial development of its site.

El Cerrito, Calif. Arsonists defeated a last-ditch effort of the Contra Costa Historical Society and others to save the 126-year-old adobe Rancho San Pablo, home of the county's "first-family"—Don Victor Castro. The spectacular blaze halted a controversy over whether the historic Spanish landmark should be preserved or be wrecked to provide a site for a modern shopping center, as nothing survived the fire but crumbling, blackened adobe walls.

Scale model of proposed restoration of Richmondtown, Staten Island, N. Y. —*Staten Island Historical Society*

PROPOSED PRESERVATION

Richmondtown, Staten Island, N. Y. A scale model, an illustrated and detailed appeal signed by Park Commissioner Robert Moses, and a four-year program of restoration activity has been launched by the Staten Island Historical Society (a Trust member organization). In seeking to raise a $3 million dollar fund the Society proposes that Richmondtown demonstrate each phase of the community's development from the 17th century to the present. Of 31 historical buildings projected, 8 exist on the site, 11 are elsewhere on Staten Island and will be moved and 12 will be reconstructed on original sites. The Department of Parks is co-sponsor with the historical society, and the city will provide half the estimated sum if the society reaches its goal.

Southport, N. C. Preservationists in the state, led by Dr. Christopher Crittenden, Director of the North Carolina Department of Archives and History, received assurance from Col. Lowell A. Yost, Chief of the Facilities Division of the Office of the Chief of Transportation of the Department of the Army, that historic Fort Johnston officer's quarters will not be razed. The Fort, built 1748-64, was burned by Whigs in 1775 and rebuilt in 1794-1809. Proposed expansion of family housing units for nearby Sunny Point Army Terminal were a threat to the quarters.

New Orleans, La. Renovation of three floors of the Pontalba House (1850) on St. Ann Street at the center of Jackson Square was completed by the Louisiana State Museum in time for the Spring Fiesta activities. Authentic examples of New Orleans furniture of the period, some of it made by Mallard & Seignouret and others from the Puig House on Royal Street have been added to the distinguished collections from the Museum and loans from outstanding New Orleans families.

Inglewood, Calif. The last obstacle to sale of La Casa de la Centinela to the city was removed by donation of $4000 by the Hollywood Turf Club. The City Council will accept the old adobe built between 1822 and 1835 for a museum, which will be operated by the Association which led the effort for its preservation.

Frankfort, Ky. With the enthusiastic support of the State Historical Society, which had at one time proposed a museum of ante-bellum rooms showing various phases of Kentucky history, the unused Governor's Palace will be renovated at a cost of $20,000 to provide a residence for the state's lieutenant governor. Bayless Hardin, secretary of the society, in expressing his approval of the proposal stated that the historic building erected in 1786 would not be able to draw enough paying visitors to support a museum and caretaker, and this plan assures preservation of the building and maintains the beauty and historic aspect of that area of North Frankfort.

Jackson, Miss. The State's Old Capitol, built in 1840 at the top of Le Fleur's Bluff overlooking Capitol Street, will be restored as a museum under authority of the state legislature. In signing the bill Gov. J. P. Coleman stated, "I am highly interested in the complete restoration of that building. Mississippi has been entirely too negligent in the restoration and preservation of its historical shrines and monuments."

Rockford, Ill. The Rockton Township Historical Society has invited parent teachers associations throughout Winnebago County to participate in its plans to rehabilitate the Stephen Mack house. The earliest portion of the house dates from 1835 and it is one of few surviving pioneer dwellings in the Macktown forest preserve area.

Mackinac Island, Mich. Gov. G. Mennen Williams and the Mackinac Island State Park Commission have appealed to the legislature for funds to create an historical, recreational and tourist area of the old fur trading post era. Plans call for an appropriation of $35,000 for a community health center for the island, which in return would deed to the state for restoration the Astor House Museum, the Clerk's Office of the Old American Fur Co.; and plan to protect by zoning any pioneer architecture which remains on Main Street.

Fredericksburg, Va. The home and studios of artist Gari Melchers, *Belmont* near Fredericksburg, which were willed by his widow to the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts upon her death last spring, have been recommended for extensive renovation by Gov. Stanley in his report to the General Assembly. The house, built in 1761 by Thomas Fitzhugh for his daughter, Susannah, is situated on a hill above Falmouth and has a sweeping view of Fredericksburg and the Rappahannock River. The house, an art collection and an endowment to help support the project for public enjoyment were provided in Mrs. Melcher's will.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

"For his intelligent and courageous battle to save intact the house, grounds, furnishings and manuscripts of the 200-year-old Porter-Phelps-Huntington house." Dr. James L. Huntington of Hadley, Mass., was presented a special award ofthe American Association for State and Local History this spring. The citation on behalf of the Association was made by Professor Oliver W. Larkin of Smith College at a meeting attended by 90 members of the Northampton Historical Society and their friends.

Thomas A. Edison's birthplace in Milan, Ohio, has been deeded to the Edison Birthplace Association by the inventor's daughter, Mrs. John E. Sloane of Llewellyn Park, N. J.

Members of the Cocumscussoc Association held a seventeenth century party at Smith's Castle, Wickford Point, R. I. A buffet supper was provided in the keeping room, following which there was a program of seventeenth century music and dancing. James D. Graham is president of the organization and Norman B. Smith, provost.

"The Creole Arts and Crafts of Upper Louisiana" was the subject of a 35 page illustrated article in the April 1956 *Bulletin* of the Missouri Historical Society. Charles van Ravenswaay, director of the Society, has compiled an unique list of Creole workmen, master builders, cabinet makers and their works.

"Our Town, 1749-1865" was the theme of the exhibit held during April at Gadby's Tavern by the Alexandria Association. On display were portraits, miniatures and other memorabilia of Alexandria's famous citizens, or portraits made by local artists. The more than 290 items on display came from noted museums in the east and midwest and from private owners in ten states; and many of the items had never been exhibited before. A catalogue of the exhibit (11 pp. text, 53 illus.) may be obtained for $1.75, postpaid, from the Alexandria Association, P.O. Box 727, Alexandria, Va.

Among the papers of particular interest to preservationists presented at the 54th annual meeting of the American Jewish Historical Society were: "The Sources of the Architectural Historian," by Mrs. Rachel Wischnitzer; and "The Jewish Colony at Waterview, Virginia," by Louis Ginsberg.

The Public Archives Commission officially opened the John Dickinson Mansion near Dover, Del., on May 2.

A copy of an oil painting of "Iroquois," the English Derby winner of 1881, has been presented to *Belle Meade* in Nashville, Tenn., by Howell E. Jackson of Middleburg, Va., a descendant of the family that owned the famous racing horse. This is the first of copy paintings of turf champions of *Belle Meade* promised by Mr. Jackson on the occasion of the National Trust annual meeting last October.

Among the National Trust members serving on the program of the Pilgrimage Forum presented by the Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage, the Maryland Historical Society and the Baltimore Museum of Art, were Ralph E. Carpenter, Jr., Mrs. Margaret Brown Klapthor, Charles E. Peterson, and Miss Alice Winchester. Richard H. Howland served as moderator.

Dr. S. K. Stevens has been promoted from State Historian of Pennsylvania to Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission in Harrisburg. Under his direction and in addition to historical research and publications, public records and the Pennsylvania Farm at Landis Valley, will be some 14 historic properties, including Ephrata Cloisters, *Pennsbury*, the restored home of William Penn, the Daniel Boone Homestead and Harmonie, a Rappite community.

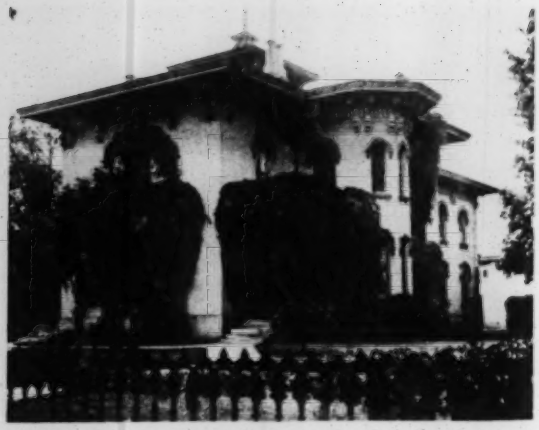
Mrs. Helen Sousa Abert and Miss Jane Priscilla Sousa of the John Philip Sousa Foundation attended the sixth anniversary of the opening of the John Philip Sousa Junior High School in Washington, D. C. The daughters of "The March King," a granddaughter and nephew participated in the celebration which featured the band leader's music, both from the sound track of a documentary film, *Marching Along with Sousa*, and later by the school band.

NEW MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

John Philip Sousa, Inc.; Buffalo Historical Society (N. Y.); Warrenton Antiquarian Society (Va.); George Washington Boyhood Home (Va.); Arlington Historical Association (Ala.); Historic Fallsington, Inc. (Pa); Foundation for the Preservation of Historic Lexington (Ky.); and as a corporate member American Heritage Publishing Co., Inc.

LIGHTHOUSES

Three lighthouses, declared surplus by the U. S. Coast Guard, are being requested by interested local agencies for preservation in their programs. Stamford Harbor Lighthouse, a local landmark since 1881, has been requested by the city of Stamford, Conn., for its proposed historical development of Stamford Harbor. The Borough of Keansburg, N. J., wishes to retain the Waackaack Light Station, a curious iron skeleton affair which was part of the Coast Guard display at the World's Columbian Exposition and has been in the New Jersey harbor since 1894. The buildings of the Eagle Harbor Lifeboat Station, which date from 1912, marked the great activity of the iron ranges of North Minnesota and the tremendous increase in shipping along this remote part of the Great Lakes region. Their preservation is proposed by Keweenah County, Michigan.



Herdic House (*ca* 1858), Williamsport, Pa., built for the town's leading citizen by Eber Culver, architect, included in Dickson's *Hundred Pennsylvania Buildings*, has been purchased by a television company. The Zoning Board of Appeals has issued a permit authorizing a 2-story concrete block addition to the north front of the building. —*Samuel J. Dornsife*

IN DANGER

Yonkers, N. Y. Plans for a 16-family apartment house threaten the historic Isaac Odell house (1725-1750) on Cross St. According to the president of the local historical society, the first owner of the house was one of the guides for the American forces who helped them in their hit-and-run campaign against the British in the area, and helped find quarters for the men and forage for their animals.

Unionville, Nev. The 94-year old post office, which sold its first stamp on April 15, 1862, when Nevada was still part of Utah Territory, may close July 1. Once the center of a gold and silver boomtown supporting the Union in the Civil War, the town now contains only 35 residents.

Charleston, W. Va. Strip mining activities threaten the survival of Fairfax Stone on Backbone Mountain. Once a small pyramid of sandstone bearing the letters F-X it was erected in 1746 to mark the westernmost corner of Lord Fairfax's 6-million-acre grant, it was destroyed by vandals and replaced in 1910 with a concrete marker placed by the order of the Supreme Court of the U. S. The State of West Virginia is trying to acquire this landmark of its history and 5 or 6 acres of its environs.

Boston, Mass. Wreckers will raze "The Fortress" (1881) located at the corner of Massachusetts Avenue and Western Streets. It was the first commercial building to encroach in the area and almost 40 years were spent in its construction and additions, which will now be superseded by a shopping center. In its vast areas and towers the wealthy Boston families stored not only their furniture, paintings, fur coats and silver before leaving for their summer homes, but also their sleighs and town carriages.

Arlington, Va. Two brilliant neon advertising signs 434 and 479-feet square will top new motel buildings in Arlington on a high point of land which will make them visible for a great distance from Shirley Highway and U.S. 1, and will provide a brilliant setting on the Potomac for the Washington, Jefferson and Lincoln Memorials and the tidal basin.

St. Augustine, Fla. The bay-front and historic seawall of this early Florida city are scheduled for major rebuilding and drastic alterations to provide turnpike and parking facilities. The National Trust has joined with its member organization, the St. Augustine Historical Society, and other preservationists in protesting this invasion of the historial colonial area of that city.

Pittsfield, Mass. Mayor Harvey E. Lake and the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution are trying to find means to move and save the last of the city's colonial landmarks, the Peace Party House (1773). A new courthouse is scheduled to be built on the site of the building where patriots gathered for a "peace party" to celebrate the signing of the peace treaty after the Revolution.

Washington, Pa. Mine cave-ins are endangering one of the country's oldest landmarks, the old Moffitt log cabin homestead near Centerville. It stands on the edge of a tract of Pittsburgh coal which was mined and abandoned early this century, and where operations to secure the remaining stumps of coal have been started.

Raleigh, N. C. The Calvin Jones house (1816), where Wake Forest College was born, faces a wrecking crew or another trip. The plantation house which was moved to its present location in 1834, and was the nucleus of the school, is on the site scheduled for a new cafeteria for the Southeastern Baptist Seminary.

Ann Arbor, Mich. The residence of the late University Regent, Junius E. Beal, is scheduled for demolition to provide a site for a new public library. The 1860 structure is one of the city's oldest downtown landmarks.

Rochester, N. Y. Action for the removal to city-owned Riverside Cemetery of the bodies of 4 veterans of the Revolution, 9 of the War of 1812 and 16 of the Civil War from three abandoned cemeteries within the city limits was begun last month. The Society for the Preservation of Landmarks in Western New York (a Trust member) is protesting the abandonment of the pioneer cemetery at King's Landing.

Charleston, S. C. In line with the Department of Interior's policy of eliminating from the national park system, areas of less than national significance, Secretary McKay announced in April that Castle Pinckney National Monument in Charleston Harbor has been abolished. It has been under the Park Service jurisdiction since 1933, but has been closed to visitors for some time and used for government storage. The present brick fortification at Castle Pinckney was begun in 1808 and completed 1810 on a site selected by George Washington. It changed flags three times during the Civil War.